

MAINE FARMER, AND JOURNAL OF THE ARTS.

"Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man."

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No. 52.

THE FARMER.

E. HOLMES, Editor.

CLOSE OF THE VOLUME.

So here we come to the end of another volume, and of another Editorial year. This is an event which to an Editor, brings with it mingled sensations of pleasure and pain. Pain to part with some good friends who from various causes, must bid us good bye, and pleasure to greet others, who either continue the journey with us, or come in fresh and strong, to aid us in our wayfaring through another stage. On looking back we cannot but feel grateful that notwithstanding the pressure of the times, and the unparalleled political excitement which has absorbed for a time, the whole community, whether they ranged on one side or other of the question, we have had the unwavering support and approbation of so great a number of Farmers thus far. But although we have nothing to complain of, yet we feel anxious to do still better, not only for ourselves, but for our subscribers and the community at large. Money, it has been said, is the sinews of war—but this is not the only thing that it forms the sinews of. It is the sinews of the printing press and without it, or something equivalent, this engine could not long battle against ignorance, or administer to the calls of the enlightened. We trust therefore, that we shall not be considered importunate if we solicit the aid of the public in the promotion of the designs of our paper.

Will our Agents rouse up a little, and make such exertions among their friends and neighbors, as shall induce them to take some Agricultural paper even should ours not meet their approbation?

The evenings are now long, and an hour or two spent in reading in the family will be the means of informing the mind and spreading knowledge which will assuredly at some time or other, form an available fund of pleasure and profit to the possessor. It is true that the Agricultural community are more inclined to read and study than they were eight years ago, when we issued the first number of our paper—more papers are taken, but then we have to share the patronage with a greater number of co-laborers in the field. Then there were but six agricultural papers printed in the United States. Now almost every State has one, and some three or four each. We are glad of this, and all we ask is a fair chance with the junior members of the family.

CORN SHELLER.

We examined a very simple machine the other day for shelling corn, invented and patented by a Mr. Dinmore of Vermont.

A piece of plank, say a foot long and eight or ten inches wide, is made a little concave on one side. This is filled with nails without heads projecting about a quarter of an inch; at one end a handle projects to take hold of, and at the other is a hole through which a bolt goes loosely, which pins it to another plank of similar size, but made convex, so as to fit the concavity of the other, and also filled with nails as the first one; this is fastened firmly to a rude frame, and the whole set over a tub or basket.

When you wish to shell an ear, you raise the movable side, put it in, and then bring it (the movable side) down, pressing the ear gently. One movement downward is enough to shell the ear. In this way a boy power can be much more effectually and

economically employed in shelling corn than in any other way for the same amount of expense of apparatus. Mr Wm. A. Herrick of Greene has the patent right for Kennebec County. Any farmer can make one, and every farmer should have one, provided he raises any corn to shell.

"ILL HUMOR."

The Editor of the Boston Courier, after sundry laudations of the several agricultural publications that come within his purview, says that although our humble hebdomadal, the Maine Farmer, is conducted with ability, there is 'a spice of ill humor' about us. Fie! friend Buckingham, fie! After dealing out sugar plums to all our brother Editors of the plough-jogging corps, by way of Christmas presents, have you nothing better for us than such a bitter almond with just sugar enough about it to coax it into our mouth? Pray, friend Joseph, pull off your specs and rub that mote out of your eyes, and we doubt not your optics will be improved by the operation. We have no doubt it was some obliquity of your mental vision that led you to the remark; for albeit you are yourself sometimes wont to write with a pen dipped in gall, and have more than once felt the bruin-like hug of the strong arm of the law for having planted the cracker of your whip upon the weak side of some unlucky wight who chanced to fall in your wake, we have always supposed you were brimfull of the milk of human kindness. Indeed, with the exception of our darling self and brother Drew, we believe there are few of the fraternity who have more of it than your worthy self. As such birds are rare, we would say, O Buckingham, live forever.

EXTRA LIBERAL.

Friend Drew is always reversing the laws of nature. The colder the weather is, the warmer his heart grows and the more it expands. Last week, the coldest one, by the way, which we have had this winter, he offered to give us one hundred thousand subscribers out of the one hundred and six thousand agriculturists in the State, reserving only the six thousand to himself. Now we hate to be outdone in generosity, especially where the cost is so little, so we will make him a better offer than that. We will give him the six thousand to begin with, and then, if he will guarantee to us half of the hundred thousand, he shall have the remainder, and we will throw in all the rest of creation to boot. What say, will you close with that?—or are the offers on both sides very much like the liberal proposition of a certain notorious character to our Savior, "upon a high mountain," a little over eighteen hundred years ago?

"WHO IS WE?"

The Boston Courier very significantly asks us "who is we?" Indeed that is a confounded hard question. If one who has been in the Editorial traces, so long as the worthy Editor of that paper, even until he has grown grey in the service and become a father in the editorial family, asks the question, How in the world should we know who we is? He can undoubtedly recollect times and seasons during his editorial career, when he was not exactly sure of his entity or identity. If not, there were those among the ancients of high authority, who experienced such perplexity in regard to themselves. Was it Descartes or some other Old Heathen (we are oblivious who he was) that finally solved the trouble in regard to him-

self, by the laconic aphorism, *cogito ergo sum*, which being interpreted meaneth, *I think, therefore I am*. Following the "footsteps of this illustrious predecessor" we presume it will be lawful to say, *we think therefore we are*. Having thus summarily demonstrated that *we is we*, it may be asked, what *we* think? Why then, *we* think that not long since there was a great oversight, or *undersight*, or *no sight at all* committed in the office of the Maine Farmer, inasmuch as there was a piece, and a very valuable piece too, copied from the Boston Courier, entitled "Blasting rocks under water by means of the Galvanic Battery," and no credit given!! Now therefore, with all due penitence and deep humility, *we*—and by *we*, we mean *we*, take upon *we*, ourself, the sins of the whole office—(in that single particular only, mind ye) and do confess that "we have left undone those things we ought to have done, and done those things we ought not to have done." And now therefore, Be it known to all Architects, Engineers, and Blasters of rocks, whether above the earth or below the earth, whether upon hill, plain or valley—whether in ocean, sea, pond, river or puddle—that we are indebted to the Editor of the Boston Courier for the aforesaid information, and that therefore *we* does not mean *we*, that is, *we* Holmes of the Maine Farmer, but *we* Buckingham of the Boston Courier. Please to govern yourselves accordingly.

NEW EDITOR.—Rev. Allen Putnam of Danvers, has taken charge of the Editorial department of the New England Farmer. We wish him success in the enterprise. Mr. Putnam brings with him the requisites of a good Editor, and we have no doubt will do honor to the paper, and justice to its patrons.

PHYSIOLOGY OF WHEAT PLANTS IN CONNECTION WITH RUST—AGRICULTURAL SURVEY, &c.

MR. HOLMES.—In the 2d Vol. of the Maine Farmer, page 170, I stated, that "from the fact that single plants of grain hold green longer than those standing thick together, and that these are more liable to disease; I draw this inference that any mode of culture, or any change of the condition of the soil by the decomposition of manure, or any other cause which might induce the plant to extend its roots too far, or to throw out new roots at the blossoming time, and thus protract the ripening of the plant at the bottom, would derange the system of the plant, and thus produce a failure in the seed." This was written, as will be perceived by a reference to dates, more than six years ago; since which time I have watched the growth of grain plants with the most scrupulous care, and find the rule of universal application.

I have found various causes producing this result, and some of these I have heretofore mentioned. But I have uniformly found that whenever the green state of the plant is thus protracted, its liability to disease depended much more on the length of time its ripening was thus suspended, than on the cause by which it was effected; although in some cases much depends on this.

The proper question now is, how can the most perfect plants be formed, keeping in view the principles above laid down? I mean as far as human agency is concerned. I answer, first—the nature of the soil and the state of the manure must be adapted to the constitution of the plant. Dr. Dana of Lowell, Mass., seems to think the benefit of lime in the culture of wheat is only secondary, and if I understand him aright that secondary use is in preparing the grain or proper food of the plants, to give it healthy and efficient nourishment. If this is his view, I entirely agree with him.

Secondly. The next object is to manage and apply the manure so that the plants shall be induced to form and extend to a sufficient distance, in the earliest stages of their growth, sufficient roots to sustain and bring to perfection all the stalks growing from a single seed, without any effort after the blossoming time. And to insure this object it is necessary that the plants or rather the seeds shall be sown so thick, that after the first stalk or stalks, shall begin to shoot up, nature should indicate to the plant, that there will be convenient room for no more.

These are the great leading principles in the culture of wheat, and indeed any grain. Plants cultivated in strict conformity to these principles will be firm and healthy—the lower part of the stalk and lower leaves will begin to ripen rapidly after the growth is completed, however vigorous it may be, (for I have seen plants of the most vigorous growth ripen as quick as any, though it is not often the case;) and the formation of the berry will take place in the shortest possible time. Hence then it will be seen that corruptions in the leaves and stalks will be exposed to atmospheric agency, the shortest possible time; and that too under the favorable circumstances arising from the internal health and vigor of the plant. I have been induced to extend my remarks at this time in consequence of the movements of the Ken. Co. Ag. Society in procuring seed wheat from abroad. Their motive is undoubtedly laudable, and I certainly wish them success; but I am induced to believe a more effectual method of relief offers itself in the experiments I propose. It is best to try both. Indeed, there is no danger of trying too many experiments, provided we go on a small scale; and that we may do, and yet render them vastly more satisfactory than we usually do.

I am really glad that a suitable importance is beginning to be attached to saving all kinds of seed for sowing and planting; and I have not the least doubt that as great benefits will result from care in saving wheat seed as any other. As to the cause why some kinds of wheat are not as liable to rust as others, I hazard an opinion, as I have had but little experience with different varieties. It would be curious as well as useful to watch the growth of different varieties of wheat as the plants developed peculiar properties; but it would require more time than I can spare from other objects. Besides, to make such observation correctly a person ought to have a good microscope, and time to use it thoroughly. But I hope our Legislature will get liberal enough to make an appropriation for the appointment of one or more agricultural commissioners, one distinct item in whose duties should be to watch the culture of wheat in this State, with one eye fixed on these principles of science which have a direct bearing on this subject, and the other on the wide spread volume of nature, ever open before us.

From some reflection on the subject, I am fully persuaded that Oxford County alone has suffered a loss of more than \$1000 to each town within her limits the present year, in the failure of the wheat crop by rust, which might have been obviated by a better system of culture. Not that I believe we can wholly prevent it; but I believe much may be done to mitigate it. Why then do we linger? What are we waiting for? O, says one, our finances are low, we can hardly pay our taxes now, and we must save every cent we can; and besides we don't see how it can do much good. Well, if you cannot see, you cannot; but to me it appears as plain as a ray of light from the dazzling luminary of day, that such a course would do more to give our agricultural one a new spring, than any thing which could be done with the same expense of money.

Peru, Oct. 1840.

J. H. J.

P. S.—I would note before I close, that I wish to include ashes among those substances with which we ought to experiment in the wheat culture. But I need not enlarge now.

Original.

Abstract from the Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Monmouth Mutual Fire Insurance Company, made at the last annual meeting of the Company, Dec. 16th 1840.

No. of Policies issued the last year	422
whole No. now in effect	1544
amount of property insured about	750,000
amount of premium notes deposited this year	15537.06
whole amount now in deposit	\$51572.75
balance of cash remaining in the treasury at the commencement of the year	\$231.48
interest received on the same	15.66
cash received on premium notes this year	541.88
Total amount of cash receipts	795.02

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid for services prior to 1840	\$6.38
“ Ezekiel Bailey for damage by fire	30.00
“ Charles Hallett for do	76.67
“ for Iron Safe	101.68
“ for printing	41.66
“ Directors for services for 1840	37.28
“ Treasurer for do	10.00

“ Secretary for do

65.97

Total amount of expenditures

370.63

Balance remaining in the treasury 424.38
\$391.00 of which is loaned, payable on demand with interest annually.

It will appear by the foregoing statement that there has been but \$106.67 paid by the company the last year for losses by fire.

The Directors would congratulate the members of this company on the success and prosperity which has hitherto attended them, a parallel to which can hardly be found in the history of associations of this kind; and we believe the principles are so well adapted to the wants of that portion of our fellow citizens for whose benefit they were especially devised, and the privilege so easily secured, that they need only to be understood to be embraced by all, and that a steady adherence to those principles, and a prompt and faithful application of the same is all that is necessary to give this Company a rank of the first order, and make it a mutual benefit to all who may come within the sphere of its operations.

JONA. M. HEATH, } In behalf of the Board
I. N. PRESCOTT, } of Directors.

Original.

SALATHIEL continueth his good advice, and wholesome admonitions in regard to schools.

DEAR DOCTOR:—In a former communication I ventured to recommend the introduction of agricultural periodicals into our common schools. Additional reflection and additional information of the good effects which have attended this course in “other regions” induces me to urge the consideration of this plan with earnestness upon the attention of all those who are in any way interested in the well being of the rising generation.

Learning to read merely, is *not the end* of a school education. It is the means only of a higher and a nobler end. To read well, and to read understandingly is the point to be attained. And whilst this object is being pursued, by the use of agricultural papers, a mass of useful information will be laid in store, and will form an always available and permanent possession. ‘Tis the immediate application of knowledge that renders it a lasting and a pleasing acquisition.

It is the dull routine of uninteresting study that renders the school the prison house of children. They feel during the period of confinement as if condemned to do “task work.” They are like culprits chained “to the desk’s dull wood” for a certain number of hours each day. Dry study which combines pleasure with labor would remedy this “crying evil” which has too long been the “familiar spirit” of school children. Let us at once “lay the spirit” and relieve the juvenile multitude from its fearful hauntings.

There is another unpleasant truth, which “will out” in this connection. It is that parents are for the most part ignorant of, or take no interest in the pursuits of their children whilst at school. If the master keeps the requisite number of hours each day, and the scholars attend regularly, the demands of the parents in the district, is fulfilled to the letter of the contract—no matter in what spirit. Beyond this, little interest is expressed, and apparently little is felt. Between the children and the parent there is little of reciprocal feeling. The studies of the child are rarely inquired into in the family. The parent knows that he has been made to purchase school books; but of their contents he knows comparatively nothing.

School books are, with the form of religious obligation, made to answer the *one purpose* for which they are compiled. They are used as if their *name* implied the *sole object* of their creation. They are employed in school, but *never* out. No sooner is the “three months schooling” concluded, than they are taken from out the hands of the children and the careful mother is constituted their guardian,—“by authority.” They are deposited in some safe place, where they must remain undisturbed, until another period for the school to commence its periodical round, “comes round.” The children by this means lose all familiarity, and become in a little time completely estranged from those studies which should occupy a portion of every day’s time. This accounts for the “backwardness,” so much complained of in scholars. The period of new commencement discovers to them that they have forgotten much, if not most, of what they had previously acquired. The time spent in making up for such “fearful backsliding” is a terrible penance in the eyes of children. Yet it is just such a penance as will ever follow in the train of such periodical sinings.

Now will not the introduction of Agricultural Journals into schools, and so into families, in a good degree obviate these evils? Will it not produce the desired reciprocal feeling between parents and children in relation to a common interest and a common education? Would it not break down and remove all partition walls, which now divide and bar them out from the acquisition of a common object?

One reason why the science of agriculture makes such slow advances in the community is that so few are instructed in it during the period allotted for attaining an education. There is no such thing in vogue as educating boys that they may become farmers. “The march of mind” has never included this idea in its train. A particular course of study is deemed requisite to insure success in every other calling in life. The Lawyer, the Doctor, the Parson and the Trader must each and all have an education in all things suited to their various pursuits. But if a boy is destined to become a farmer the *wise* design of keeping him in the “bliss” of perpetual ignorance is sedulously put in requisition. The only fear indulged is, that he will by some mishap transcend this state of happy-know-nothingness, and if not sedulously watched and prevented, will chance to “know something.”

Our wealthy farmers, those who have become affluent by devoting their lives to agricultural pursuits, rarely dream that their sons can follow with honor in their footsteps. If incited by the desire of giving them a finished education, ‘tis not that they may become better skilled in farming than their parents.—The thought that the son can pursue the laborious calling which has given wealth to the father is never cherished for a moment. He must be educated if educated at all, for one of the learned professions, or must be apprenticed to some city trader and so learn in an accomplished manner to smirk and bow behind a counter. Hence it is that we see our independent country farmers deserted of all their sons and in the prosecution of their labors assisted only by hirelings. The daughters too, dare not “pat butter” lest it should impair the delicacy of their hands, and so spend their time between reading the “latest novel” and in imprinting with a fine needle, “outlandish figures” upon muslin.

No one will deny that the fault of this wrong teaching, or this no teaching, is with the parent in the first instance. People may prate as they will and laud the labors of agriculture as they will; but experience shows that in too many cases it is all “cold lip service.” The sons of our farmers do imbibe the idea that to labor through life on a farm is only to yield to a low and servile occupation, and in their parents instance they regard it as the result of chance or compulsion and not of choice. Hence the son of the farmer looks beyond and away from home for happiness and for employment, and the ample means accumulated by paternal toil, are expended in preparing him for some other, and *more respectable* station. That this is all sheer folly, every man of right mind will readily confess, and yet that such folly is rife in the community, the same reflection joined with observation will prove past all contradiction.

No man needs a higher, a better or a more thorough education than the farmer. Those who follow other callings may qualify themselves by a particular course of preparation. But the education of the farmer must be complete in all its parts. The studies, incident to the professions, are limited in kind, if not in extent. But the range of the farmer knows no bound. “The broad as the earth of which he is the common inheritor and which he cultivates. The studies which go to make the perfect farmer are of the most ennobling kind. They are those which liberalize the feelings and enlarge the capacity and fill up the measure of wisdom. They have a decided advantage over that limited course which fits only for a particular calling, and which when pursued to the exclusion of every thing not involved in “the main chance” has the effect to “narrow the understanding and contract the hearts.”

The farmer should be able to ask understandingly the “why?” of every experiment, and the wherefore? of every result should be fully known. Intelligence is not more the life of liberty than it is the soul of industry. Our agriculturalists are more numerous than all the other classes combined, and they should for the same reason be the most intelligent. The staff is in their own hands, and they can direct the public will withersoever they list.

I may perhaps resume this subject in some future communication. If I do not in all cases express myself in homed accents it is because hearts of flint can be more easily penetrated with an occasional sprinkling of “Hannibal’s vinegar.”

Yours truly,

SALATHIEL.

Original.

LONG RED POTATOES.

Public opinion rules every thing, in all nations and tribes. It has a mighty influence on the people of this State, in regard to potatoes. I am led to these observations, by dining this day, (Dec. 2, 1840) on the potato, known by the name of the long reds, or river de la Plata. If they are planted as soon as the ground is in order in the spring, they mature by the common time of digging potatoes. If they are thus treated, there is no better potato for table use. I will add that as their yield is abundant, and as they do not rust, if public opinion was as it should be, no other potato would ever be raised, except some early variety for summer use, for those who prefer new to old ones. They never choke cattle, on account of their shape.

Certainly, swine, and cattle, are as fond of them, and their nourishment is as great, as any other variety. The reason why they should be planted early, is because they originated far south, and of course, until they become acclimated, they require a longer time in the climate of Maine to mature properly. They need a rich soil, but this is no objection, as they never fail to remunerate the owner. It is not half the work to harvest them as it is other varieties, for they come up principally with the tops, when pulled. As public opinion now is, they will not bring much in our market. I write to change this opinion, for it is undoubtedly erroneous, and has been caused by late planting. Only plant early, and this opinion will change.

MURPHY.

PRESERVING HAMS.

Messrs. Editors:—There are various opinions in the world respecting the best method of preserving hams, and although my mode may not be the best in the world, it is one which I have long practised with very good success, and may be of service to some of your readers.—My recipe for making brine:—

For each 100 lbs. of hams, take 8 lbs. of salt, 4 gallons of water, 1 quart of molasses, and 2 ounces of salt petre; mix well together.

After remaining in the brine from ten to twelve weeks, they will be fit for smoking. Wash them clean before hanging them in the smokehouse. Some farmers burn maple chips, and others saw-dust, to create smoke, but I believe the majority agree with me that *corn cobs* are the best material for this purpose. The smokehouse should not be perfectly tight as it will cause the hams to sweat and injure their flavor. After being smoked about four weeks, the hams should be taken out, and those intended for summer use sewed up in cheap cotton sacks, and hung in a cool place till wanted.

Hams preserved in this way will have a better flavor, and keep longer than in any other way that I know of. If any of the readers of the Farmer know of a better method, I should be pleased if they would make it known.—*New Genesee Farmer.*

Frost Bitten.—For the information of such as are afflicted with frost bitten hands or feet, we publish the following from the New York Sun:

"Dissolve half a pound of alum in a gallon of warm water; and soak the hands or feet before going to bed for ten or fifteen minutes. I had one of my hands frost bitten, and tried various remedies, and expended five or six dollars, endeavoring to obtain a cure, but all to no purpose, until I tried the above. In my case, I dissolved about three ounces of alum in a quart of warm water, (keeping it pretty warm,) soaked my hands three or four nights, when a cure was effected—the expense was two or three cents.

The following article properly belongs under the "Visitor" head, but was omitted in its place for want of room.

QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOL TEACHERS.

Some 3000 teachers are now doubtless employed in the common schools of Maine. A considerable number of these perhaps may see the Maine Farmer and glance their eye over the Visitor department. Will they tolerate a few plain questions asked in a good natured mood, designed for the benefit of themselves and their scholars? We throw them out in a miscellaneous manner and invite attention to them.

1. What motives ought to influence a person to engage in this work?
2. What are some of the motives which frequently seem to predominate?
3. Is it important that a teacher have fondness for children and for the business of training them?
4. What native traits of character are important as prerequisite to teaching?
5. How many and what branches of knowledge ought the teacher to be qualified to teach?
6. Is it necessary to be acquainted with any branches he is not expected to teach,—if so what branches?
7. Ought he to teach any branches in which there are no class books studied?
8. Is it of any importance to be acquainted with all the scholars as soon as practicable?
9. Is any advantage gained by an early acquaintance with parents?
10. How is this acquaintance best gained?
11. Do you seek familiar acquaintance with the scholars out of school, or would you keep them at "respectful distance," and thus maintain a "proper dignity"?
12. Would you gain the affections of scholars and thus lead them on in the paths of virtue and knowledge, or can you drive or scold or whip them on just as well.

13. Would you have a code of laws and penalties written out and posted up after being read in the hearing of the school, or would you bring in a heavy rule or a long birch and brandish them well and leave the scholars to guess at the rest; or have you a more excellent way?

14. Do you threaten scholars manfully and treat them as a set of rogues, or do you approve of kindness and moderation?

15. Is it right in any case to frighten scholars with the implied threat of any punishment you mean never to inflict?

16. Is it right under any circumstances to deceive a scholar as a means of governing him?

17. Is it well to allow whispering at all in school, and if so should it be unrestricted, or should it be confined to a certain hour of the day? or should the scholar always ask leave to speak with another?

18. Is it well to encourage the practice of "going up," as it is called, in the classes?

19. Is it well to give rewards to those who thus excel?

20. Should the principle of emulation in its common acceptation be resorted to in any form?

21. In arranging classes is it better to have many or as few as practicable?

22. Is spelling as much attended to and as well as it ought to be in schools generally?

23. What are the best methods of securing good spelling?

24. What methods would you employ in securing good reading?

25. What are the advantages and disadvantages of simultaneous reading? and to what extent and under what regulations should it be practised?

26. How early should scholars commence writing?

27. What is the proper position of the body? the book? the pen? the hand holding it? the left hand?

28. How often should scholars be encouraged to write, and how long at one time?

29. Is it the better way to "set copies" or to give them slips? or write copies on the black board for the whole? Would any advantage be gained by using all these modes?

30. Is it well to encourage the writing of small hand first or should there be extensive practice in coarse hand?

31. What are the benefits and disadvantages of each?

32. Is it well to encourage the small children in the use of the slate and pencil before they may with propriety use the pen?

33. Is it desirable to encourage the practice of drawing in our common schools among the incipient efforts of children with slate and pencil?

34. How many regular branches of study is it proper for one scholar to pursue at the same time?

35. Can a scholar effect as much to employ his mind all day upon one branch, as by having some variety?

36. Is it desirable daily or frequently to interrupt the regular routine of study by a general exercise to which all shall attend?

37. Is it well to practice simultaneous answering of questions in such general exercises?

38. What are some of the benefits of this practice?

39. Is it desirable and practicable to introduce vocal music into school?

40. How much time may profitably be devoted to this branch?

41. What benefits may result from the introduction of this, aside from the intrinsic value of music?

42. Is it well to encourage the study of natural history in any of its departments, into the common schools?

43. What motives urge the study of Geology and Mineralogy?

44. Can it be at all introduced without damage to the common studies?

45. Should botany be studied in our summer schools so far as to encourage the collection and preservation of plants?

46. Is it not possible this winter to awaken an interest, both in Geology and botany, which shall lead many young persons to engage in making collections the next season?

47. Ought teachers in our winter schools to endeavor to excite increased interest in agriculture?

48. Can a teacher discharge his duty faithfully without endeavoring to increase in the minds of his scholars a regard for the various branches of productive industry?

49. Might not much good result from the occasional reading of a good article from an agricultural paper?

50. Might not every teacher in this State be a better teacher by gaining a familiar acquaintance with the Geological reports, the Map of Maine and the Maine Farmer?

LEGAL.

From the Boston Courier

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

FRIDAY, December 11.

Alden and als vs. Dewey and als. This suit was brought to recover \$4000 damages for the infringement of a patent right.

The Plaintiffs are the assignees of one Pierce, who is the patentee of an improved *thole or nib*, (i.e. handle,) for *scythe snaths*. It is well known to mowers that these nibs, or handles, must be moveable up and down the snath, in order to suit different kinds of grass. The old fashioned ones are made with an iron bow or ring at the end, which goes round the snath, and holds the nib firm by means of wedges driven between the ring and the snath. When the nib is to be moved, these wedges are to be hammered out and in, which is a somewhat clumsy process. In the patented nibs, the ring, which goes round the snath, is furnished with a screw, extending through the nib, with a nut at the end of it, by means of which the handle is forced down upon the snath and held firm at the point desired. The nibs made by the Defendants differed in two or three obvious respects from those of the Plaintiffs. The questions were, whether those differences were substantial or merely formal, and whether Pierce was the original inventor. Gentlemen skilled in mechanics were called as witnesses for the Plaintiffs, and gave it as their opinion, that the nibs made by Defendants were substantially the same as those described in the patent. No person skilled in mechanics gave any contrary opinion.

The Defendants also set up that Pierce, under whom the Plaintiffs claimed, was not the original inventor, but had received information from one Draper, how to construct the nibs. Draper swore that he told Pierce that the nibs could be made with a nut and screw, but no further particulars. Judge Story charged, that if Draper had given Pierce any thing more than a mere hint, and had told him so much that he had no room left for the exercise of his invention, then he could not be the original inventor—nor could he or his assignees claim any damages for any infringement of their patent. He also charged that the article manufactured by the Defendants must be substantially the same, that is, the same in principle, in method, and in effect; though it might differ in form, to order to entitle the Plaintiffs to recover. Damages in such a case were not to be vindictive—but should be sufficient to indemnify the Plaintiffs for the losses and costs they had sustained. Among other things, the jury were not to forget that the services of counsel, such as had appeared on either side of this case, were not to be obtained without being well remunerated.

Verdict for the Plaintiffs for \$1166.

Fletcher and Charles Sumner for Plaintiffs.

B. Rand and B. R. Curtis for Defendants.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT.

John Chandler vs. Inhabitants of Petersham.—This suit was brought to recover \$233, paid by the plaintiff to the town of Petersham, as taxes upon his personal property, in the years 1835, '6 and '7.

The case turned upon the question of *inhabitaney*. It appeared in evidence that the plaintiff was the owner of several farms in Petersham, and spent a large portion of each year there. He had, however, been a housekeeper in Boston, for thirty or forty years past, and voted here during the years in dispute, and now resides here.

Verdict for the plaintiff.

Hon. John Pickering for plaintiff.

Pliny Merrick, Esq. of Worcester for defendant.

Fisk vs. Jeremiah P. Staniels.—This suit was brought to recover about \$500 for lumber sold by the Plaintiff to Defendant. It appeared in evidence that Staniels had contracted with one Rowe to build him such a house for the sum of \$2100, as, it was testified, could not be afforded under \$4000. The plan was to purchase lumber in such a way that the sellers should look to Staniels for payment, while he should take care to say nothing that would bind him in law. In pursuance of this plan, Staniels went with Rowe to lumber dealers, and upon their objecting to sell to Rowe, whose credit was somewhat dubious, said *he would see them paid*. Witnesses swore that Staniels had admitted to them that he had made a great bargain in getting Rowe to build his house, as he had bought up demands against Rowe to a considerable amount, on very favorable terms. Such being the evidence, no argument was offered by the counsel on either side, and the Judge remarked that there was no occasion for a charge. Thereupon the Jury returned a verdict for the Plaintiff.

Wm. Gray for Plaintiff.

Bradford Sumner and E. Smith, Jr. for Defendant.



THE STATE OF MAINE A PRETTY GOOD STATE.

Ex Governor Hill took a ramble Up East here last fall, and reports us to be not only a pretty flourishing State, but also a very clever set of fellows. He has given an account of his excursions in the Visitor. We have not room to copy the whole but make the following extracts which will shew his opinion of some of the sections through which he passed.

CITY OF BANGOR.—The city of Bangor, at the head of navigation about six miles from the mouth of Penobscot bay, contains, according to the census of 1840, eight thousand six hundred and eleven inhabitants. The Penobscot river here divides the county of that name from the county of Hancock, which extends from the mouth of the bay on the right or easterly side all the way up and beyond Bangor until it reaches the county of Washington, which latter county, until it was divided by taking off an extensive tract of land on the north-east corner of the State called the county of Aroostook, embraced the whole distance of the easterly line of Maine bordering on the British province of New Brunswick. A rail road has been made from Bangor to Orono, up the Penobscot river twelve miles, where there are falls in the river, and numerous saw mills turning out immense quantities of manufactured lumber.

Bangor is more favorably situated for an ultimate large interior trade than any other city of New England, with the exception perhaps of Boston. The late speculation carried this city beyond its natural growth, and it has been made to feel a revulsion which palsied its trade and business for a time. Yet it is a beautiful place: it has many elegant buildings. The Kenduskeag river, which here empties into the Penobscot, divides the town; and from the elevated ground on either side looking over the stream, the view of the private and public buildings and surrounding yards and gardens is pleasing to the eye. A little eastward from the town is an arsenal owned by the United States. The avenues leading into the town from different directions are well made and ample roads. The Bangor house is an establishment nearly as large as the Tremont house in Boston; it was finished and furnished at an expense of more than one hundred thousand dollars, and is kept in a style that would not discredit an elder city.

Excellent Land in Penobscot.—Our journey was about forty miles north in the interior of the county of Penobscot to Dover, the shire town of the new county of Piscataquis. It was remarkable that in the month of October we should make fifty miles of this journey in a sleigh drawn by a single horse. Leaving Bangor at nine o'clock on Monday morning, October 26, we encountered a severe snow storm from the northeast, and before we arrived at the meeting house in Exeter it lay on the ground nearly six inches in depth. The snow came and lay on the ground many miles to the south-west nearly as deep as it did here; and all of it was swept away in the severe rain that followed in the last days of the month. We regretted for the moment that the ground should be covered so as to shut out the view of the capacity and quality of the soil.

There is no better country in the northern states for agricultural purposes than the interior of Penobscot county; Exeter, Corinth, Garland and Charleston, are all first rate townships. They are situated on the elevation which divides the waters of the Penobscot and the Kennebec. The swells of land, sufficiently rolling to carry away the superabundant water, are not so steep and not so prominent as the hills of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, between the Merrimack and Connecticut, or those of Vermont. Roads are made over them in any & every direction laid out in a direct line. A large portion of the land is almost entirely free from rocks upon the surface. The soil seems to be underlaid with limestone, which in some cases breaks through to the surface. In place of stone walls which are common in other parts of New England, the swamps afford excellent cedar timber for the erection of permanent fences. The beauty of the many miles of cedar fences, together with the capacious, well finished barns of the many farmers, furnished ample evidence, although the earth

was covered with snow, that the soil of this country was of the best kind. The country has not yet been long enough settled to develop its utmost value. Nearly half of this part of the county of Penobscot yet remains in the original forest. In many of the towns there seems not to be a single acre of waste land. Even the low sunken swamps are valuable for the abundance of cedar which they produce. The following is the mode in which fences are constructed from this timber:—the logs are cut at the length of twelve to sixteen feet, and laid on blocks a little above ground, a transverse short stick or block being placed so that a second shall rest upon the first, and these are extended to the height of four and five sticks. The next length rests upon the other end of the same blocks as the first. This done, two upright split stakes standing on either side at the point where the logs meet pass through bored holes in a cross split piece which fastens the whole and keeps the large logs in their position until the sticks give way from decay or rottenness. The cedar is said to be more durable than other timber for fences; even more lasting than chestnut.

Much of the land in Penobscot county is superior to the best portion of the hill lands in other parts of New England. Excellent fields of Indian corn have been there raised during the present season: If too cold for corn, it is the right kind of land for wheat and oats and peas, and for potatoes and grass. In Exeter and the vicinity hop raising has been a business to some extent. Apple trees are here as thrifty as they are in the vicinity of Boston. On the declivity of one of these handsome swells of land facing a little to the south, near the centre of Exeter, stands one of the most beautiful apple orchards that can be found in the country. The country here has not been settled a sufficient time to bring the earliest orchards to a full bearing. Considerable attention has been paid to grafting and inoculation of apple trees. Apples bear a higher price in the market at Bangor than they do at Boston.

Potatoes an Article of Commerce.—Potatoes are a very profitable crop: they are raised twenty-five and thirty miles in the interior, and carried to the seaboard for shipping. The farmers realize much ready money from the potatoes shipped to the southern market. A man in Frankfort, a small port on the Penobscot, below Bangor, kept an account of the quantity of potatoes put on ship board from one wharf in that town, in the year 1839, and found that 65,000 bushels were shipped during the year from that one wharf. Potatoes are a sure crop in that country—they can be raised and secured at an expense not exceeding twelve and a half cents a bushel; and the price which the farmer obtains is rarely less than 25 cents the bushel, and sometimes twice that sum.

The value of a New Country developed gradually.—We have barely touched upon the county of Oxford, and have never been in Somerset or over a great portion of Kennebec. Portions of Lincoln and Waldo we passed in the night; so that from actual personal observation we cannot say which part of Maine is the better or more feasible land. We are, however, altogether disappointed in the soil of Penobscot: it is far better than our anticipations; and when the townships in that county embracing the swells of land which are the sources of the streams running on either hand into the Kennebec and the Penobscot shall have gained the present age of the Kennebec towns, we are of opinion that this will be a richer and more prosperous agricultural region than any county westward in the State of Maine.

When the country is in a wilderness state, the very best land, situated at a distance from roads or other avenues of communication—shut out by streams that are not easily forded, by impenetrable morasses and swamps, and blocked up by thick woods, or interrupted by intervening hills and ravines—is deemed to be of little or no value. The interior of Maine has been viewed in this light, even after it was partially explored, until successive isolated openings and settlements have brought each other to be united. Particularly has this been the case in the interior of Penobscot and the other lower counties. For fifty and a hundred years have there been small settlements along the seaboard and up the navigable rivers, holding their communications by water or by poor roads extending from one town to its nearest neighbor. These first settlements for a long time made little progress; and during all this time the interior country was looked as of no value beyond where cedar and pine timber and other wood could be carted to the seaports to be transported to the ports of the old New England States, where timber and wood had become scarce. To show what was the impression relative to the Penobscot region, it will suffice to say, that an old gentleman named Holland, still alive, & we believe mem-

ber of the Society of Cincinnati, and if we mistake not, author of an ancient map of Maine, about forty-five years ago was employed in survey a route for a road from the Penobscot to the Kennebec, a distance of about sixty-five miles. He was a finished surveyor for his time, and after a long and careful examination of the proposed route, reported to the persons who employed him, that it was utterly impossible ever to construct any road between the points proposed on account of the intervening hills and swamps! Over the same route now the mail stage runs daily at the rate of ten miles the hour for nearly the whole distance, and a rail road is in serious contemplation, which may be yet constructed before the old gentleman, who made the unfavorable report, shall die.

The better facilities in the North-Easterly State.—When the boundary question comes to be settled—as settled, we trust, it never can be except under the strict letter of the treaty of 1783, which is more definite and certain than any other language can make it—the State of Maine will contain more acres of land capable of cultivation than any other present State of the Union. It must be ultimately the most valuable and the most wealthy State of the Union. Its better facilities for a market cannot fail to make it so.—The land in the valley of the St. John's is some of the very best in the country. That part on the Aroostook, now in the possession of the United States, is more fertile by nature than almost any other land in New England: it is of the limestone formation, a dark colored loam inclining to red, and of such a quality in its natural state as to turn out the most luxuriant crops. On this rich land potatoes grow so that at the distance of three & four feet from each other, the vines, continuing green through the season, cover the ground. The lighter soil is natural to wheat. The Marshal of Maine, who had personally taken the census of the new county of Aroostook, of the agricultural items of that county, informed us that Messrs. Shepard Cary and company at Houlton, raised on their own premises this year, five thousand bushels of wheat: this was produced partly on old land that had been before cultivated and was now ploughed, and partly on new burnt ground. The yield was generally twenty-five to thirty bushels to the acre. Spring sown wheat was the kind produced. It was worth in that country one dollar and fifty cents the bushel, double the value of the same article in Michigan and the western part of New York. A person by the name of Noland, an enterprising Yankee, who had been a soldier in the United States service, clearing land which he had found means to purchase, raised the present summer two thousand bushel of wheat, all upon burned new land.—Mr. Cary is a representative in the Legislature for Houlton. The house to which he belongs have erected a beautiful set of grist mills four stories high on the Military road, four miles from Houlton.

There can be no hesitation as to what will be the true interest of the young men of New England, designing to emigrate and pitch upon new lands. They will find in the new lands of Maine a soil not less productive than the best lands of the western States. They dread the deep snow and the cold long winters; but it is a serious question which we should be willing every western emigrant, who has settled and lived one, two, or five years in a log cabin should decide, whether there is not more comfort and enjoyment in one of our steady cold long winters, where there are seldom sudden changes, where the ground is well protected with a covering of snow, where the merry sleigh-bells jingle before the traveller as he swiftly glides over the hard smoothed pathway, and where the facilities of ready transport of timber and wood in the forest, and of produce to the market, are ten-fold better upon snow than upon bare ground—than in the unsteady, open winters of the western States, where the roads are impassable from mud, where all comfort in travelling in the winter months is out of the question, where the fire-side enjoyments of thanksgiving and christmas visits from distant friends are seldom realized, and where cold weather is a more uncomfortable guest from the total want of preparation to meet it?

The cold weather with its sufferings in Maine bears no comparison with the unhealthy climate of the new countries at the West. There is hardly an instance known of the New England emigrant at the West escaping the "chills and fever." For the last three or four years the west has been the grave of many enterprising sons and daughters of New England. A rich soil is but a poor compensation for other privations. We are apt in some parts to consider the prevalence of rocks to be an evil to the farmer; but does not the New England emigrant, who for hundreds of miles cannot find materials for stoning his cellar, envy those he has left for the possession of his abundance of rocks? The New England settler finds the heavy woods standing on his land to be cleared, a burden he

would gladly be rid of; but how does the western settler, who cannot find either wood or rocks for fences or fires within the distance of miles, look back with longing on the rough wooden country he has left? His rich lands will turn out great crops: suppose they should be double the New England crops, is not the one half here intrinsically worth more than the whole there?

We do not believe there is a better country in the world for the New England farmer to emigrate to than the State of Maine. We cannot recommend to any young man to fix himself down on land before he has seen it. He who has been brought up in cultivating the ground cannot well mistake good land from bad land. The success which has attended hundreds of New Hampshire farmers who have settled in the State of Maine within the last thirty years, proves that the latter is a good State to emigrate to. For all hardy, enterprising young men, we believe no part of the country affords more decisive advantages than the Aroostook country.

The valley of the Kennebec and its Towns.—The mail road from Bangor to Augusta takes its course the first five miles down the Penobscot river to Hampden, when it leaves and passes across the country over the hills in Dixmont by Albion, China, and through Vassalborough to Augusta, the capital of the State. China, at the distance of about twenty-five miles north-east of Augusta, is one of the best farming towns in the State under cultivation. This town received more money for the State's premium on wheat in 1838, than any other town. Vassalborough is an extensive town above Augusta, extending ten miles on the east shore of the river. A large portion of its inhabitants are of the denomination of Friends: it numbers nearly one thousand voters, having several small villages. The soil of Vassalborough is good; it is generally highly cultivated. The buildings are well finished—the houses neatly painted, and the barns of that large size that indicates farming here to be done on a large scale. There are excellent apple orchards in this town, from one of which there were sent to the markets at Augusta and Hallowell the present winter, five hundred bushels of fine winter apples.

Below Vassalborough we first come to Augusta which divides with Hallowell an original ten miles square township, extending five miles east and five miles west, and ten miles up and down the river north and south. The town split in two leaves both towns with a territory on each side of the river, Augusta being the upper or northerly division. The population of both towns probably exceeds ten thousand inhabitants. Here are evidences of wealth, such as none but a highly productive agricultural district of country can afford. The valley of the Kennebec river, although embracing a region settled many years after that of the Connecticut or Merrimack, presents villages and buildings and improvements which are not behind the older settlements on either of those rivers. Augusta is indeed a beautiful town. Connected by a splendid bridge, the village extends to both sides of the river. The U. S. Arsenal, and the Asylum for the Insane, just now finished at an expense of more than one hundred thousand dollars, are on the east side.—To this humane institution, Hon. R. Williams of Augusta, and Mr. Brown of Vassalborough, contributed each ten thousand dollars. The female Academy is also on the same side; and of the elegant private house, that of Mr. Williams will attract the attention of the traveller as he passes from the road on the east side to cross the bridge. Blocks of brick stores, shops and dwellings extend on a street up and down the river as the place of business and trade; and at an elevation of some hundred and fifty feet above, distant some forty rods, is the parallel street on which stand the granite capitol and other public buildings, with numerous elegant private dwellings.—A short distance above the bridge is the Kennebec dam, which was erected a few years ago at an expense of about two hundred thousand dollars: this dam originally flowed the water back to Waterville, distant eighteen miles. The intention in its erection was to improve the navigation above Augusta, and to create a water power for the erection of numerous manufactures. The project is considered to be little better than a total failure. A friend informed us that of the expenditure on this dam, his portion was about eighty thousand dollars! A mistake was made in the nature of the ground where the dam was erected: the foundation, supposed to be rock, turned out to be only sand; and when the high floods came, the water undermined the earth so that the river soon found a channel on the westerly side, sweeping away in a few hours an incredible quantity of ground and even endangering buildings supposed to be far out of the way, of the river on high terra firma. A new dam raising the stream above to a less extent than the first dam, has lately been erected.

Two miles below Augusta is the village of Hallowell, a longer settled village than the former. To this place up the river, steam boats and larger craft approach as the highest point to which they venture. The village is more compact, but apparently not so large as Augusta, and like that has a street on the river bank and another west of it more elevated.

A few miles below Hallowell, we come to the village of Gardiner, at and between both of which places on the river are extensive steam mills for sawing lumber. The latter village has a fine water power in a stream tumbling down the steep bank from the west. In rear of Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner to the west, the ground rises nearly to a mountain height for several miles on the river. There is a great amount of pine timber brought all the way down from the sources of the Kennebec to the Moosehead lake and streams beyond it, which is manufactured at the saw mills at the three villages on the Kennebec at the head of sloop navigation. Wealth has here for the last quarter of a century been accumulating nearly in a compound ratio.

A Discovery.—The mail-stage road leaves the bank of the river at Gardiner, and passes over into the valley of the Cathanz, a considerable stream intervening between the waters of the Kennebec and the Androscoggin, the name of which we had never heard until approaching it. At a village in Bowdoinham, bearing the name of this stream, we were surprised with the appearance of two large new ships standing out of the water like dwelling houses. Not anticipating that the water here was on a level with the sea, we would have been no less surprised at seeing two new ships floating on the Merrimack in front of our capitol, seventy-five miles from the sea, than at this place in the interior of the State of Maine. These elegant ships and probably others had been built here during the present season. There are many rivers, or rather arms of the sea, which form excellent harbors all along the coast of Maine, making the three hundred miles of coast into approachable navigable shores by indentation probably three or four times that distance. All along this extensive coast are found the safest and best harbors in the world. Generally the shore is bold and the water deep: a ship of the line may ascend the Penobscot to Bangor.

The port of Bath is situated the first above the mouth of the Kennebec, on the point below where the waters of the Androscoggin and Cathanz river, forming the Merrymeeting bay, meet with those of the former before they are discharged into the ocean; with the town of Brunswick it forms a peninsula nearly surrounded by navigable waters. It is said that fifty ships owned in Bath, averaging over four hundred tons each, have cleared in the freighting business more than \$400,000 during the last year. A single trading firm is reported to have made in the time over \$100,000! The freighting of cotton from New Orleans, Mobile, and other southern American ports, has been a great business for ship owners during a year past: it has been so good, that the danger is it may be a losing business hereafter. It is the nature of great enterprise to run into extremes.

The Androscoggin river divides the villages of Brunswick and Topsham: the latter is the half shire town of the county of Lincoln, and the village at the court house is but a continuation of the beautiful village of Brunswick, which belongs to the county of Cumberland. At the falls of the Androscoggin between the towns, are extensive lumber mills and other manufacturing establishments carried by water power. The college buildings at Brunswick are situated on a very level plain of light soil: the main street is an oblong square upon this plain extending in the direction of Topsham towards the river, on either side of which are beautiful dwelling houses, stores and mechanics, shops. As we passed this place in the night, we can only say that the change and increase of buildings has been no less wonderful here than it has been in many other parts of New England. Brunswick, Topsham, and Bath, embrace a population nearly as Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner. Altogether there is no part of New England, if we except the metropolis and its immediate vicinity, where wealth and population exceed the valleys of the Kennebec and the Penobscot—and no part of the country where these have increased so rapidly.

THE VISITOR.

CONDUCTED BY CYRIL PEARL.

CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL HOUSES.

It is pleasant to see increasing attention to the comfort of scholars in our public schools but the pleasure of this is often marred by perceiving how often the best intended efforts are unsuccessful for want of the

necessary knowledge or reflection. A few days since we had an opportunity to visit a school house erected last season. It was a fine looking brick building of two stories, and finished with good materials and considered by many, a first rate school house, but a slight examination was sufficient to show that it had several serious defects.

1. The height of seats and desks was not properly graduated. The smaller scholars occupying the forward seats were obliged to sit with their feet hanging or swinging so that the weight of the limb must rest upon the edge of the seat. There was very little difference between the height of seats for the small scholars and those for the large ones, except that the back seat was high enough for tall men.

2. The same objection lies against the height of desks. The desk for the highest seat was only high enough for smaller scholars so that the older or larger scholars must suffer from the stooping posture they would take at the desk.

3. The seat and desk were too far apart, so far that the scholar could stand erect between them. To write or use the slate upon the desk the scholar must lean forward so as to distort the form, and render the position destructive of comfort if not of health.

4. The room was altogether too light. There were nine large windows for a room suitable for 50 scholars. Three on each side and three in rear of the scholars. It was near the close of the day and the close of the school when the eyes of the scholars had been tasked by their daily study. The sun had been pouring his rays in through the three southern windows across the school room in that direction and sweeping around till towards evening and now in the west he was pouring a flood of light in horizontal rays upon the plastering directly in front of the scholars, the reflection of which was nearly as formidable as would be the three windows themselves. The scholars called out to spell in facing the teacher must face this blazing wall. This is too bad. Those three rear windows ought to be closed and the light from them entirely shut out. The other six are more than sufficient for the room. Then the three upon the southern side should be shielded by curtains whenever the sun would shine into them. Some eyes will be ruined there this winter if something is not done to save them.

5. We object to an inclined plane: a level floor is decidedly better.

6. We would have a class room in rear of the teacher's desk and between the doors of entrance. The stair way into the second story could be easily made to conform to this arrangement. Such a class room is of great value to a teacher for various purposes and ought not to be omitted in building a new school house. The faults we have named exist in a school house which was built with much care and by an intelligent committee and it is certainly much better than most of those in common use.

The inclined plane we have objected to, but if this should be altered it should not be in the same style with one we visited last winter. It was in one of our largest villages, the supports to the seats had been framed into timbers upon the inclined plane so as to be level, but after the district had torn away the inclined plane and made the floor level, the same seats were used without alteration and the timbers now being level the seats were canted back just as much as the floor had previously inclined forward. The scholars for years had been obliged to occupy them in that awkward position, the forward part of the seat being some two or three inches higher than the other side.

Another school house was the reverse of this. The seats had originally been adjusted to a level floor, but after a "sober second thought" the people resolved to have an inclined plane and a good deal of it. The seats as a matter of course were pitched forward in the same proportion. But here was the difficulty. The little rouges would slip off of the seat and especially as some of them could not set their feet on the floor while they sat fairly on the seat. To remedy these defects cleat or strips of board had been nailed to the edge of the seat so as to rise one or two inches above its surface. These had been in use several years, so as to bear very great marks of antiquity, the "tooth of time," or the jack knives of the boys had been long enough with them. A friend who visited the school with us remarked jocosely that "the seats and desks bore such marks of age it was not strange to see them running down hill."

While on this topic we will add one item more. In one town within 30 miles of Portland we visited three schools in which the scholars had nothing to lean their backs against except the edge of the board which formed the desk in the rear, and this for the smaller children was so high as to come against the back side of the neck. The desk in front was so far from them as to

render it of no service in resting their weary position. To add to their misery the seat was so high that they must either sit with their feet hanging or stand upon the floor and lean against the seat. Thus endeth our chapter which might be swelled to a volume.

SUMMARY.

To Subscribers.

Persons wishing to transact business relating to the **MAINE FARMER** at the Legislature in Augusta, are informed that Mr. NATHAN FOSTER, the Representative from Winthrop, is authorized to act as Agent, to receive new subscriptions and money, and to give receipts.

NOYES & ROBBINS.

Winthrop, Jan. 1, 1841.

CONGRESS.—Our sketch of Congressional proceedings last week was carried up to Thursday, Dec. 17. The Senate on that day, after some discussion of the financial portion of the President's Message, adjourned till the next Monday. But little business was finally accomplished in the House, and it adjourned on Thursday till the next Monday, in order to have the injury done to the Hall by the falling of the chandelier, repaired.

On Monday, Dec. 21, the Senate passed to the third reading, a bill abolishing imprisonment for debt on processes issuing from the Courts of the United States, in all cases whatever, where by the laws of any State, imprisonment for debt has been or shall hereafter be abolished. In the House a select Committee was raised to report upon the subject of preventing steamboat disasters. The President was requested to communicate the correspondence between this Government and Great Britain with respect to the burning of the Caroline, the imprisonment of McLeod, &c. During the remainder of the week up to Wednesday evening there was but little business of general interest done in either House. A call, however, was made in the Senate for the Sec'y. of State to furnish the aggregate of the population &c. of the United States. A bill granting a pension to Hannah Leighton, the widow of the first officer killed in the Revolution, passed the Senate. Many petitions were received and referred.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—ARRIVAL OF THE ACADIA. The Royal Mail Steamship Acadia, arrived on Monday at 3 o'clock, P. M. She left Liverpool on the 4th, and is consequently a little short of seventeen days from Liverpool.

Birth of a Princess.—The accouchement of the Queen took place on the 21st ult. and it is reported will receive the name of Adelaide Victoria Louisa.

Egypt and Syria.—An extraordinary express from Marseilles arrived in London, on the 27th ult. brings an account of the bombardment and capture of St. Jean d'Acre. The siege appears to have been one of the most brilliant on record.

On the 3d of Nov. at half past 2, the batteries of Acre were opened on the ships of Admiral Walker and they immediately opened a tremendous fire in return. The Egyptians fought with great courage. At half past 4, the action being at its height, a terrific explosion, occasioned by the ignition of the principal powder magazine of the city, took place, by which an entire regiment, posted in its neighborhood, was destroyed, consisting of 1500 to 1700 men.

Soon after, the Egyptian troops which survived, left the town, and 300 Turkish troops, and a detachment of Austrian rocketeers, took possession at daylight.

The carnage was dreadful, but the loss of British seamen and mariners was very trifling, estimated at from 17 to 23.

It was generally believed that Louis Philippe had succeeded in negotiating a marriage between his youngest son, the Duke de Montpensier, and the Queen of Spain, so far at least as the consent of the Ex-Queen Regent, her august mother, can go towards completing such an arrangement.

There have been several serious railway accidents in England of late, attended with destruction of life and a large amount of permanent personal suffering.

Destructive Storm.—The English papers give long and distressing accounts of fierce and destructive hurricanes, which swept over the whole of England and Ireland, and much of the northern portion of France, doing immense damage in several towns and villages, and also proving awfully destructive to the shipping, attended with loss of life. The first storm commenced on the 25th ult., recommenced with renewed vigor on the 17th, and continued till the 20th ult.

Accounts from Switzerland state that several of the small mountainous cantons have been visited with fresh inundations.

They are making extensive preparations for war in Germany and many arrests have taken place of members of secret societies.

Nashua and Lowell Rail Road.—Hill's N. H. Patriot states that, although the cost of this rail road was one third greater than the estimate made by the engineers

yet, on the other hand, miscalculation as to the amount of business on the road was even greater, and has caused the stock to rise from a mere nominal value to 12 per cent advance.

Mail Robberies.—Alfred Holden has been arrested at Rochester, strongly suspected of being an accomplice with a man named Harrington, who has fled, in several robberies of the canal mail between Lockport and Buffalo.

There are more than 12,000 Post Offices in the United States. The annual compensation of a Postmaster cannot exceed \$2,000. There are but 38 Postmasters in the United States that obtain that sum.

Bird's eye maple boards and timber have been shipped from Bangor, the present season, destined for the London market, is said, where it is much admired as an article to be manufactured into furniture.

Rev. J. M. Graves has been installed as pastor of the Baptist church in Claremont, N. H.

Gen. Harrison was born on the 9th of February, 1773, and is consequently nearly 68 years old.

Yankees make money out of every thing.—The difficulties between Great Britain and China has proved a great speculation to our tea dealers. It is said that three mercantile houses in Salem have made more than \$1,000,000 out of them, and individuals from \$30,000 to \$50,000 each.

Disputed Territory.—We cannot perceive that the stationing of British troops upon this territory has caused a very strong sensation. Various reasons are assigned for it. One is, the taking of the census by the Marshall—another account states that it is to protect the lumber, which is under the charge of the provincial authorities—and another, that the action of the American settlers under our late election law, is the cause of the movement.—We shall probably soon have further light.—Ib.

The large and beautiful chandelier which was manufactured by Messrs. H. N. Hooper & Co. of this city, and which was last fall suspended in the Representatives Hall, at the capitol in Washington fell down on Friday morning last, and was smashed to pieces. Fortunately, owing to the earliness of the hour, no one was within reach. Had it fallen an hour or two later it might have caused the death or wounding of many members. This chandelier weighed over 7000 pounds, and cost 4000 or 5000 dollars. It was thirteen feet in diameter, contained 78 argand burners, and is said to have been ornamented with 2650 cut-glass lustres and 3000 cut-glass spangles.—*Boston Transcript.*

John Leighner was executed at Augusta, Indiana, on the 13th inst. The circumstance of his crime were peculiar. He was firing at a mark with a friend, with whom he had been drinking. Irritated by some observation of his friend, he fired at him and missed. The other, whose name was John Farley, then said, laughing, "You can't shoot me," and Leighner seizing another rifle, killed him instantly.

Hon. Dixon H. Lewis, M. C. from Alabama, arrived at Washington on Wednesday. He weighs about 480 pounds, and always engages two seats when he travels.

The Consequence or Temperance.—The Dublin Mercantile Advertiser says that the manufacture of spirits in Ireland was less by three millions five hundred thousand gallons, in the year ending the 10th of October, than in the preceding year, ending on the same date. The consequent loss in revenue is close upon five hundred thousand pounds sterling; or more closely, £466,666 16s. 6d.

Committee on Agriculture.—The following gentlemen comprise the Standing Committee in the United States Senate—Messrs Mouton, Dixon, Linn, Surgeon, and Smith, of Conn.

Explosion.—The steam boiler in the paper manufactory of Mr. G. Moore, at the corner of Lydia and School streets, Kensington, (Philadelph.) burst Monday morning, destroying the building, and burying two men in the ruins. Both were rescued and may survive. Mr. Moore, who was in the yard, was very much injured by falling timbers. His loss cannot be less than \$10,000. The boiler was thrown 40 or 50 feet from its position, through two walls, into an adjoining dwelling house, burying in bricks a bed from which three children had just risen.

Pork business in Cincinnati.—A letter in the Louisville Gazette, dated Cincinnati, Dec. 7, says: Speaking of sleighing puts me in mind of the way hog butchers are going it up town—30,000 having been 'sleaved' already during the very short time since the sleaving commenced, a great many of which came from old Kentucky, nearly 3000 came over there on Friday last. From all I can learn, from those whose knowledge of the business entitles them to full credit, it is thought the number already arrived and those that are to arrive, will out-number the amount received last year three to one. The number packed here last year was nearly 50,000—the number this year has probably reached 150,000. The price of pork, so far, averaged

4 1-4 cts. per lb.

Beauties of the Law.—There are twelve patents for India rubber in England, and the money paid to defend them exceeds the whole amount paid for the article since the first introduction into the country.

The Duke of Newcastle has an estate twenty miles in length. His castle cost \$350,000, the chimney piece alone having cost \$72,000. How many wretches starve that this one may live in magnificence?

The trial of Mrs. Kinney has been assigned for Monday, 21st inst.

Trial of Mrs. Kinney.—This trial commenced on Monday of last week. We have seen a report of the trial up to Wednesday noon, at which time the evidence for the prosecution closed. It seems evident that Mr. Kinney died from the effects of poison, but whether the evidence will be considered sufficient to fasten the act of administering it upon Mrs. Kinney, seems to us very doubtful.—*Temperance Gaz.*

ACQUITTAL.—The jury in Mrs. Kinney's case, on Friday last, returned a verdict of *not guilty*. She took lodgings at the jail, as her clothing and other effects were there, in preference to going elsewhere.

The Boston Transcript says that she is left destitute, with three children to support; that her counsel have advised her to remain in Boston, that she is desirous to do so, and that a subscription has been opened in order to obtain for her the means of establishing herself in business, to support herself and family.

The London Globe announces that Major General Sir Thomas Pearson, now in command of the North of Ireland, is to proceed to New Brunswick in the room of Major General Sir John Harvey, ordered to India!

The Halifax Recorder states that "three American fishing vessels, the Ocean, Director, and Alma, seized by the Provincial Revenue Cutters last summer, have been condemned by the Court of Vice Admiralty, under the treaty of 1818."

The Legislature of Kentucky have elected Mr. Crittenden U. S. Senator for six years from the 4th of March. He had 100 votes, his opponent 29.

In Holland bird nesting, and every other injury to the melodists of the wood is severely punished by legal enactments.

England and Texas.—England has acknowledged the independence of Texas. A commercial treaty was ratified on the 16th ult.

Bowdoin College.—The Senior class numbers 35—Junior 32—Sophomore 55 and Freshmen 43. There are over 10,000 volumes in the College Library, and 10,000 in the four Society Libraries. The actual, necessary annual expenses amount to \$129,75.

An English paper says that in the reign of Charles I the mayor of Norwich actually sent a man to prison for saying that the Prince of Wales was born without a shirt to his back.

Married,

In Pownal, on the 24th inst., by Rev Jabez Woodman, Dr. Dav i Y. Pierce, of Bowdoin, to Miss Caroline C., eldest daughter of Col. H. I. Warren, of P.

In Bath, by Rev. Mr. Gilman, Mr. William Linch, to Miss Ellice Donnell.

In Eastport, Mr. Patrick Whalen, to Miss Eliza Lashley, both of Deer Island. Mr. Henry Calder, to Miss Sarah J. Small, both of Campobello.

DIED,

In Guilford, 16th inst., Mr. Hosea B. Buck, aged 38. In Bath, Mr. Francis Sutherland, aged about 70. Mrs. Elizabeth Ridlon, aged 72. Mr. Stephen Coombs.

In Gardiner, Mr. Ivory Lord, aged 30. In Elliotville, on the 29th ult. Mrs. Mary, wife of Wm. C. Vaughan, aged 28.

In Hallowell, of typhus fever, Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of John Agry, Esq.

THE WEATHER.

Range of the Thermometer and Barometer at the Office of the Maine Farmer.

Dec.	Thermom.	Barometer.	Weather.	Wind.
25	4 6 10	29.45 29.50 29.50	FFF	WNW.
26	1 4 9	29.50 29.50 29.50	CSS	NW.
27	15 20	29.35 29.25 29.30	SSC	N.
28	16 22 27	29.35 29.35 29.35	FFF	N.
29	27 32 38	29.65 29.70 29.75	CCF	W.
30	27 30 33	29.75 29.75 29.70	FFS	E.
31	30 31 32	29.70 29.70 29.70	CSC	N.

F for Fair weather; C Cloudy; S Snow; R Rain. The place of these letters indicate the character of the weather at each time of observation—viz at sunrise, at noon, and at sunset. * Below zero. s Shower between observations.

The direction of the wind is noted at sunrise and sunset.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday Dec. 21, 1840.
(From the Daily Advertiser and Patriot.)

At Market 620 Beef Cattle, 2400 Sheep, and 60 Swine.

Prices—Beef Cattle—Our quotations last week for the first and second qualities were not so high as they should have been, and we quote still higher to day.—First quality \$5.75 and \$6; second quality, \$5 a 5.50; third quality, \$3 a 4.50.

Barrelling Cattle—Prices have not advanced on Barrelling Cattle, and we quote the same. Mess, 4.25 a \$5; No. 1, 3.25; No. 2, \$3.

Stores—A few sales only were noticed. Sheep—Sales quick. Lots at \$1.50, 1.75, 2, 2.33, and 2.75; Wethers, 3.50 and 4.

Swine—A small number only were at market, consequently no large lots were sold; a small lot of Barrows at 5c. and a lot at 5 1-2c. At retail 4 1-2 a 6c.

Winthrop Lyceum.

A meeting of the Winthrop Lyceum will be holden at the Masonic Hall in this Village, on Tuesday evening next, at half past 6 o'clock.

Question for discussion:—"Ought Capital Punishment to be abolished?"

Ladies and Gentlemen are respectfully invited to attend. Winthrop, Jan., 2, 1841.

Farm, and Tavern Stand for Sale.

THE subscriber, will sell his beautiful establishment near Greene corner, on the upper stage road from Augusta to Portland. Said stand, is located near a steady meeting on the Sabbath, an excellent school, Post Office, stores and mechanic shops. Said farm has an excellent wood lot, with some valuable timber, and a sawmill might be built on the premises, or a good tanyard, which is much wanted; it also contains two small orchards. The Tavern will be continued at present, and a humble hope is entertained, that all civil and moral customers, will be satisfied with fare and fees. Please call soon, for further information.

CHARLES ROBBINS.

Greene, Ken. Co., Jan. 1st, 1841.

3w52

Notice.

THE inhabitants of, and all the legal voters in school district No. 4, are requested to meet at the school house in said district, on Saturday the second day of January, 1841, at six o'clock P. M. to act on the following articles:

1. To choose a Moderator of said meeting and also to choose a clerk.
2. To see if the district will take any measures to divide said district.
3. To see if the district will build a school house or houses, or in any manner enlarge or repair the present one and raise any money therefor.
4. To see if said district will vote to purchase the Common School Library in pursuance of an Act of the Legislature.
5. To choose committees, and instruct them.

T. L. MEGQUIER, Agent.

Winthrop, Dec. 19, 1840.

P. S. As the object for which the above meeting is called is so obvious, and the elevation of our common schools so much needed it is hoped and expected that every interested person in the district will attend, and bring with him some new plan as to the construction of the house or houses, and the best method of conducting our common schools.

T. L. M.

ORTHOPEDIC INFIRMARY.—For the Treatment of Spinal Distortions, Club-feet, &c. At 65 Belknap street, Boston. Patients from a distance can be accommodated with board in the immediate neighborhood.

JOHN B. BROWN, M. D. Surgeon.

We the subscribers approve of Dr. J. B. Brown's plan of an Infirmary for the treatment of Spinal Affections, Club Feet, and other Distortions of the human body, and will aid him by our advice whenever called upon.

John C. Warren, George Hayward, Edw. Reynolds, Jno. Randall, J. Mason Warren, John Jeffries, John Homans, M. S. Perry, W. Channing, George C. Shattuck, Jacob Bigelow, Enoch Hale, W. Strong, George Parkman, D. Humphrey Storer, George W. Otis Jr., Winslow Lewis, J. H. Lane, Edward Warren, George P. Duane, John Ware, George Bartlett, John Flint, J. V. C. Smith.

The above Institution has now been in operation over two years. During this time, a large number of Invalids have been admitted, who were suffering under almost every kind of physical deformity, particularly curvatures of the Spine and Club-Foot of all variety and degree.

The plan of Treatment in this Infirmary is in conformity with the most enlightened principles, which, in practice, have been found so successful in the modern Orthopedic Institutions of Europe. With what success it has been attended here, may be known by inquiring of any of the above surgeons.

3m45

Wood Wanted.

A few cords of Wood wanted immediately in payment for the Farmer.

Particular Notice, to Subscribers of the Maine Farmer, who are in arrears.

THOSE Persons who are indebted for the 6th and 7th Volumes to M. SEAVEY, and the late firm of SEAVEY & ROBBINS, are informed that it is absolutely NECESSARY that those accounts be IMMEDIATELY ADJUSTED. There is no good reason for longer delay—outstanding debts must be settled, and we must have our pay—and we shall therefore be under the necessity of calling upon all those who do not give heed to this Notice forthwith in a different manner. Payments may be made to the present Publishers of the Farmer, through the agency of Postmasters, or otherwise.

SEAVEY & ROBBINS.

FURNITURE, CHAIRS, FEATHERS, &c.

WALTER COREY,

19, EXCHANGE STREET, PORTLAND,

MANUFACTURES, and has constantly for sale, an extensive assortment of

BUREAUS, SECRETARIES, SOFAS, TABLES, Patent Windlass and Common BEDSTEADS.

Also, for sale, a good assortment of Live Geese and Common FEATHERS; MATTRESSES; FEATHER BEDS; LOOKING GLASSES, WILLOW CRADLES, CARRIAGES, &c. &c.

Connected with the above, he has an extensive

CHAIR FACTORY;

where he manufactures mahogany, curled maple and common cane seat CHAIRS; tancy and common wood seat do.; cane seat, common rocking and nurse CHAIRS, &c. &c.

His facilities for manufacturing are such that he is enabled to sell as low as can be bought in Boston or New York, and every article warranted. His STOCK is complete in every respect, and it is believed that persons desirous of purchasing any articles in the house-furnishing line, will here find all that is wanted, and at prices corresponding with the times.

6m49

December 10.

Berkshire Boars.

I HAVE two fall blooded Berkshire Boars, of a breed recently imported from England, one year and a half old, and the other seven months, both very superior animals, and in prime order for business. The stock of the older one is very well known, and is decidedly the best I have ever seen.

Three of his pigs have already taken premiums as the best boars exhibited in this county, and in East and West Somerset. The younger one was sired by the older, and is an almost perfect fac simile of him.

I would sell either one of them, and the other I shall keep for sows, as I have heretofore advertised.

No one that has ever tried the Berkshires, have failed to be more than satisfied.

J. W. HAINS.

Hallowell, 16th 12th month, 1840.

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Maine Tri-Weekly Journal.

SEVERANCE & DORR will resume the publication of the Tri-Weekly Journal during the session of the ensuing Legislature. This session will be one of unusual importance, as there is to be a Senator in Congress chosen, a new valuation of the State, a new districting for Representatives, besides divers other matters of importance. As there will be a new Whig Administration in the State, the proceedings of the Legislature will derive importance from that circumstance. In addition to a full report of Legislative proceedings, we shall furnish our readers with a connected sketch of the doings of Congress, and the news of the day generally.

The price of the paper will be One Dollar for the session, payable in advance, as heretofore.

Our friends in the several towns in the State will confer a favor upon us by procuring subscribers for the Tri-Weekly.

Thrice Weekly Age.

THE publishers of THE AGE propose to issue a paper three times a week during the next session of the Legislature.

It will contain, in addition to the report of Legislative Debates and proceedings, the News of the day, a synopsis of Congressional proceedings, and the original matter which appears in the Weekly paper. It is intended that the reports of proceedings shall be full and accurate, and the sketches of debates as complete and perfect, as any that have been published at Augusta.

The districting of the State, the preparation of the State valuation, the choice of U. S. Senator, and the other important duties which will devolve upon the coming Legislature, together with various party movements which will grow out of the political change of the State Government, will, it is believed, render frequent information from Augusta particularly interesting, during the approaching session.

The price of the Thrice Weekly will be One Dollar for the session. It will be published on such days as will best accommodate our subscribers on the different mail routes.

The price of all subscriptions must be paid in advance, and no order will be complied with, unless accompanied by the money.

Vegetable Syrup.

FOR FEMALES, en enciente.

THE most safe and effectual remedy for lessening the pains and sufferings attendant on parturient WOMEN, that has ever been discovered.

Directions for using it, &c., are briefly stated in a small pamphlet that accompanies each bottle; in which are certificates from Physicians, who have prescribed it, and other Gentlemen whose Wives have used it.

Prepared by S. PAGE, Druggist, Hallowell, Me. to whom orders may be directed.

It is also for sale by the dozen or single bottle by W. C. Stimson & Reed, No. 114 State street, Boston; Noyes & Robbins, Winthrop; J. E. Ladd, Augusta; Charles Tarbell, Gardiner; I. Alden, Waterville; Nath'l Weld, Bath; G. Williston, Brunswick; A. Carter & Chs. E. Beckett, Portland; Geo. W. Holden, Bangor; W. O. Poor, Belfast; Doct. J. A. Berry, Saco; T. Fogg & Co. Thomaston; R. S. Blasdell, East Thomaston; Edmund Dana, Wiscasset; C. Church, Jr. Phillips; H. B. Lovejoy, Fayette; John Sides, Waldeboro'; S. W. Bates, Norridgewock.

March 7, 1840.

9c0ptf.

Resurrection or Persian Pills.

SUPERIOR to the Hygeia, Brandreth's Evan's Indian Purgative, and Matchless (priced) Sanative, or any other Pills or compound before the public as certified to by physicians and others. Let none condemn them until they have tried them, and then we are certain they will not.

It is now a settled point with all who have used the Vegetable or Persian Pills, that they are preeminently the best and most efficacious Family medicine that has yet been used in America. If every family could become acquainted with their sovereign power over disease, they would keep them, and be prepared with a sure remedy to apply on the first appearance of disease, and then how much distress would be avoided and money saved, as well as the lives of thousands, who are hurried out of time by neglecting disease in its first stages, or by not being in possession of a remedy which they can place dependence upon.

All who wish to guard against sickness should use the PERSIAN PILLS freely when needed; no injury can ensue from youth to old age, when taken according to the directions.

The RESURRECTION or PERSIAN PILLS.—The name of these Pills originated from the circumstance of the medicine being found only in the cemeteries of Persia. The vegetable productions being of a peculiar kind led to experiments to its medical qualities and virtues. In half a century it became an established medicine for diseases of that country. The extract of this singular production was introduced into some parts of Europe in the year 1793, and used by many celebrated physicians in curing certain diseases, where all other medicines had been used in vain. Early in the year 1792, the extract was combined with a certain vegetable medicine imported from Dura Bacz, in the East Indies, and formed into pills. The admirable effect of this compound upon the human system led physicians and families into its general use. Their long established character, their universal and healing virtues, the detergent and cleansing qualities of their specific action upon the glandular part of the system, are such as will sustain their reputation and general use in the American Republic. Large box contains 73 Pills—Price 63 cts.—Small Box 25—Price 31 cts.

SAMUEL ADAMS, HALLOWELL,

Gen. Ag't. for the State of Maine, to whom orders may be addressed.

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Machine Shop and Iron Foundry.

HOLMES & ROBBINS would inform the public that they continue to carry on the MACHINE MAKING BUSINESS as usual, at the Village in GARDINER, where they will be in readiness at all times to accommodate those who may favor them with their custom. They have an IRON FOUNDRY connected with the Machine Shop, where persons can have almost every kind of Casting made at short notice. Persons wishing for Mill work or Castings for Mills, will find it particularly to their advantage to call, as the assortment of Patterns for that kind of work is very extensive and as good as can be found in any place whatever.

Castings of various kinds kept constantly on hand—such as Cart and Wagon Hubs of all sizes, Fire-Frames, Oven, Ash and Boiler Mouths, Cart and Wagon Boxes, Gears of different kinds and sizes, &c. &c.

All orders for Machinery or Castings executed on the most reasonable terms, without delay.

Repairing done as usual.

Gardiner, March 21, 1840.

121y

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has been duly appointed Executor of the last will and testament of Luther Robbins of Greene, in the county of Kennebec, deceased, testate, and has undertaken that trust by giving bond as the law directs.—All persons therefore, having demands against the Estate of said deceased are desired to exhibit the same for settlement; and all indebted to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to

NATH'L ROBBINS, Executor.

Greene, Nov. 9, 1840.

3w51*

POETRY.

Original.

THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

"He sleeps there in the midst of the very simplicities of nature."

There let him sleep. In nature's arms
Caressed, as if her darling child.
There are pure, living, quiet charms
In this sequestered wild.
He would have chosen such a spot;
'Twas fit that ye should lay him there,
Away from all the haunts of care,
The world disturbs him not.
He sleeps full sweet, in his retreat,
That place is consecrated ground,
It is not meet, unhallowed feet,
Should tread that sacred mound.

He lies in pomp—not of display,
No golden honors deck his bier,
Nor pomp of words—they cannot say
What treasures cluster here.
The pomp of nature wild and free,
Adorns our hero's lowly bed,
And gently bends above his head,
The weeping laurel tree.

In glory's day, he shunned display,
And man may not bedeck him now,
But nature may, in rich array,
Twine laurels for his brow.

He lies in pomp—not sculptured stone,
Or chiseled marble—vain pretence,
The glory of his deeds alone,
In his magnificence.

His country's love; the meed he won,
He bore it with him down to death,
Unsullied e'en by slander's breath,
His country's sire and son.
Her hopes and fears, her joys and tears,
Were each his own—he gave his hand
His earliest cares, his choicest years
And led the conquering band.

He lies in pomp, but not of war,
He fought; but did not ask renown,
He conquered—not to seek a star
To grace a regal crown.

His honor was his country's weal;
From off her neck the yoke he tore;
It was enough—he asked no more—
His generous soul could feel
No proud desire, for king's attire,
But brothers, friends, and country blest,
He could aspire, to honors higher,
Than kingly crown, or crest.

He lies in pomp—His burial place,
Than sculptured tomb is richer far,
Far in the heart's deep love we trace
His name our golden star.
Whenever patriotism breathes,
The good, the noble, and the great
Emblem his memory in state
With more than laurel wreaths.
His labor lives, his name survives,
All glorious in death he lies
Remembrance gives him thousand lives,
For goodness never dies.

There let him lie,—'tis a sweet spot,
Simplicity becomes the great,
Mount Vernon's son is not forgot,
Though he sleeps not in state.
There wrapt in his own dignity,
His presence makes it hallowed ground,
And nature throws her charms around,
And over him smiles the sky.
There let him rest by these caressed,
Add nothing to the artless stone,
Break not his rest—his grave is blest,
Its only glory is enough, its Washington.

Lowell, Mass.

LYDIA.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Original.

INFLUENCE OF MUSIC.

MR. HOLMES:—Among the few things, which serve to cheer and render happy mankind, while they are passing through this rough state of existence, braving dangers and overcoming difficulties, are the charms, which heart stirring music affords. Lost indeed must be the individual in the shape of man, to the finer and more pleasing sensations of the heart, on whom the harmonious bursts of music have no effect; or his bump of pleasant sounds must be horribly deficient. Why do we see men and boys hurrying after the high-strained music of the fife and drum at our general musters? Observation will answer, it is because there is life, animation, pleasure and excitement in it. It stirs a feeling within, which no one can account for. Its influence is powerful reaching to the most noble actions of men. It excites to noble deeds, to acts of

herosim, to the attainment of renown. How does the farewell song of the mother or sister, urging to bravery and honor excite man, and fit him to go into the deadly fight, where every thing is wet with human gore and

"Every sod beneath his feet
Becomes a soldier's sepulchre."

How does he contend for his country and fireside? No wonder people of olden times were such tremendous warriors. No wonder that their motto, was "conquer or die." No wonder that they were brave and would stand their ground, though rivers of blood flowed round them; for they had their reward, when rays of peace were seen again. When their females came out to meet them returning from victory, laden with the sports of war, and sang, in the sweet tones of female ardor, songs celebrating their victory and greeting their return, filling the skies with their acclamations and the surrounding hills and vales with soul-stirring melody; then he received, in his estimation, sufficient remuneration for all his toils and troubles, perils and hair-breadth escapes from danger. Then his bosom glowed with pleasing emotions and glorious resolves. Then he acquired bravery for hours, which should "try men's souls."

It cheers the hours, when sadness is wont to hover over the minds of men. It is suited for times of grief, for soothing the swelling hearts of men, for casting one gleam of pleasant sunshine on dark and lonely seasons; and it is also suited to the merry heart. When the youthful and merry heart leaps for joy, music is its native, its most appropriate language to express the happiness. In the sunshine of life, when not a storm interrupts the tranquility of the scene, while we glide on the smooth sea of time, with the favoring gales filling our canvass; then comes music, a gentle Goddess and adds the "better half" to our enjoyment. And even when storms are "on the sea," when old Neptune, god of the billowy waves, "embroils heaven, earth and sea" in one general scene of ghastly chaos and confusion,—when the frail ship in which we embarked on our final voyage seems about to "founder in darkness and gloom" on some desolate shore amid the "awful disclosures" of the mighty deep; when fortune frowns, friends desert, and hope, our anchor is nearly gone, even then, in that distressful hour, mild music comes with soothing air and kindly endeavors with her peculiarly pensive and sweet tones to raise our drooping spirits and lift our thoughts "on high."

Are not melodious sounds concordant with the nature of man? Is not music his amusing, and intimate companion? If not, why was he furnished with it by his Creator? The melody of nature: Has any one ever failed to have noticed it, and to have been charmed by it? Go out on a pleasant Spring morning, when the sun looks gayly upon all things; listen; hear ye not the heavenly music? Are not the shady groves full, all nature alive, the whole world ringing with Elysian melody? Al! hear it, all admire it, all are influenced by it.

Yes, we say it influences all, either "for better or for worse." Like all other good and necessary things, it may be used for bad purposes. It may be used for beguiling men to destruction or cheering them on in the right way. The man of olden times had this in view, doubtless, when he said, "let me make the bards of a nation and I care not who makes their laws."

Seeing therefore the many pleasures attendant upon this art, we shall be led to cultivate it; and perceiving the mighty influence it has, we shall see the necessity of cultivating it aright. Vocal music is, perhaps, the most practical of any. There are very few, who cannot acquire the art of making music with their voices. Therefore all should try to gain a knowledge of it. All that is necessary, is to appropriate some of your leisure time to the study of it. It will as before stated, afford pleasure and wear away sad hours. The mind of man is active—must be engaged in something, either good or bad. If, therefore in your leisure hours, you betake yourself to the art of "making melody," you will be "sure that you are right" and will feel no hesitation in "going ahead." You will be pleased with yourself and others will be pleased with you. For it is said, that "where there is music, there is melody; and where melody, there is concord; and where concord, there is agreement; and where agreement, there is no war."

Farmington, Oct., 1840.

EPHEBUS.

Original.

NOTHING PARTICULAR.

Not knowing but Friend Holmes might think me dead, I drop a line just to assure him I am yet alive,—although some may perhaps dispute the doctrine that I am wholly so, accordingly as some pert poet has said—I wot not a whom.

"Mortal is man, ever dying—
He lives but partly, partly is expiring."

Or as the Essayist on Man has more philosophically expressed it—
"As man, perhaps, the moment of his breath
Receives the lurking principle of death;
The young disease, that must subdue at length

Grows with his growth, and strengthens with his strength."

However the case may be,—dead or alive—I claim to be able to wield a stump of a pen—such as I always scribble with—and daub paper with ink in my usual way, either in sense or nonsense—the reader may name it—extending—as I ever feel to do—a friendly salutation to thee, Friend Holmes, and to all thy co-workers in the good work of disseminating the arts and sciences among the farmers and mechanics of the land. Good on thy head, and on the heads of all those, thy brethren, who stand sentinels on the watch-towers, set to defend and guard the rights and interests of the workers of this goodly republic.

I am inclined to mention (if any one should stop to ask why B. F. W. has not been of late more at his old game of "shoving the quill" for the Farmer?) I have been absent from home (and forsooth I may add absent at home too) and in my absence have passed through several of the new towns, as also some of the old ones, in this State. Hereafter I may take occasion to notice some of the things I saw and heard "by the way," trusting it may be found of sufficient interest to warrant it a niche in the Farmer.

Before closing I would notice for the consideration of such as may not be above heeding the remark,—as well as for those most concerned in the matter—wherever it was found, in passing along, the Maine Farmer, or some other congenial paper patronized and read, there one might very easily discover quite an improved state in farming affairs. Would that the tillers of Mother Earth would think of this, and look to it, that each and all of them provide the same, or like aid for their furtherance in this ever-to-be-honored branch of industry! Fie, fie upon it! away with that narrow, contracted, mind-stinted, illiberal, earth-en-slaving notion, that would discourage and stay the march of agricultural knowledge and science! Let book-farming, say we, go forth to bless and improve the land! It is the very thing that is calculated to make the business of farming a pleasurable occupation as well as to lead one to the best possible method of pursuing it.

Reader (if not already done) will you subscribe for the Farmer or some other kindred paper,—aye and pay for it too?

B. F. W.

West Sidney, Dec., 1840.

Ground Plaster,

IN casks, dry and in good order, stored at R. G. Lincoln's; easy of access, and may be loaded without lifting. For sale by C. M. LADD.
Hallowell, Dec. 21, 1840. 51

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The Maine Farmer,

And Journal of the Useful Arts,

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